

REMARKS

Claims 15-22 currently remain in the application. Claims 1-14 and 23-26 have been cancelled. Claim 15, 17 and 19 have been amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 15-22 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being unpatentable over Acres (6,565,434). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims as amended recite "configuring a first communication port included in a communication interface to communicate data according to a first communication protocol used by a first gaming machine function on the gaming machine wherein the master gaming controller on the gaming machine is adapted for communicating using the first communication protocol via the first communication port; configuring a second communication port included in the communication interface to communicate data according to a second communication protocol used by a second gaming machine function on the gaming machine wherein the master gaming controller on the gaming machine is adapted for communicating using the second communication protocol via the second communication port.

In Acres, a player tracking unit coupled to a gaming device is described that communicates via an MCI with a number of devices on a network. In the case of gaming machine that generates a game of chance, the MCI communicates with a master gaming controller on the gaming machine. In Figure 7, Col. 47, lines 5-61 and Col. 54, lines 9-45, the communication between the player tracking unit and the gaming machine. In particular, Col. 47, line 6-8, Acres states, "*Referring to FIG. 7, the MCI collects information from the gaming device over the RS-422 serial link 26 using a suitable protocol such ASP 1000.*" This sentence seems to indicate that the MCI and the master gaming controller communicate using a single communication protocol. In Figure 7, Col. 47, lines 5-61 and Col. 54, lines 9-45, it does not appear that Acres teaches a master gaming controller in the gaming device that is adapted for controlling a game of chance played on the gaming machine, adapted for communicating using the first communication protocol via the first communication port and is adapted for communicating using the second communication protocol via the second communication port. Therefore, for at least the reasons, Acres can't be said to anticipate claims 15-22 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a

telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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